

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00471 221910Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09  
OES-07 AID-05 CPR-01 L-03 OPR-02 AGRE-00 /062 W  
-----088268 230716Z /10

R 221839Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6020  
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 0471

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EWWT, EC  
SUBJ: GUAYAQUIL PORT CONGESTION

REF: GUAYAQUIL 0443

1. THE CONGESTION AT THE PORT OF GUAYAQUIL CONTINUES  
UNABATED AND IN THE OPINION OF LOCAL STEAMSHIP AGENTS  
WILL CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR AND A HALF WHEN THE NEW  
PORT EXPANSION PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED FOR TERMINATION.

2. ON MARCH 21 THERE WERE 30 VESSELS WAITING TO BE  
BERTHED WITH AN AVERAGE WAIT OF 4 TO 5 DAYS . BANANA  
VESSELS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PRIORITY BERTHING.

3. THERE IS QUOTED BELOW AN EDITORIAL FROM THE GUAYAQUIL  
"EXPRESO" FOR MARCH 19, 1978.

"PORT OF GUAYAQUIL PUNISHED"

"IN VIEW OF THE CONGESTION OF CARGO AFFECTING THE MARINE  
TERMINAL OF THE CITY OF GUAYAQUIL, THE PORT HAS BEEN  
SANCTIONED SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 1978, AND IT IS ANTICIPATED  
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THAT OTHER MEASURES OF AN ECONOMIC NATURE WILL SERIOUSLY  
AFFECT ITS OPERATIONS.

THE SANCTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE DECISION ADOPTED BY THE EUROPE, SOUTH PACIFIC  
AND STRAITS OF MAGELLAN CONFERENCE PLACES A SURCHARGE

OF SIX DOLLARS PER TON OF EXPORT CARGO AND FIVE DOLLARS PER TON ON IMPORTED CARGO (I.E. GUAYAQUIL); THIS SURCHARGE HAS BEEN IN FORCE SINCE FEB 1, 1978.

B) THERE EXISTS THE DANGER THAT BEGINNING WITH MARCH 1978, THE NORTH AMERICAN, ATLANTIC, GULF AND WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA CONFERENCE WILL IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL TWELVE DOLLARS PER METRIC TON, WHICH ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES WILL RESULT IN A PENALTY OF SUQUES 605,000 DAILY.

C) FINALLY THE JAPAN SHIPPING CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF THE CONGESTION OF THE PORT OF GUAYAQUIL, HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL IMPOSE A SURCHARGE ON MERCHANDISE, EQUIPMENT, ETC. DESTINED FOR ECUADOR, EQUIVALENT TO 15 PERCENT OF THE FREIGHT CHARGE, AN AMOUNT WHICH IS CALCULATED TO ADD UP TO 24 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, I.E. SUQUES 600 MILLION PER YEAR.

THIS MEANS THAT WHEN THE NEW SANCTION IS APPLIED, THE PORT OF GUAYAQUIL WILL HAVE TO PAY SUQUES 1.6 MILLION PER DAY TO WHICH MUST BE ADDED SUQUES 605,000 AS PENALTY PAYMENT IMPOSED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN, ATLANTIC, GULF AND WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA CONFERENCE, OR AN AMOUNT OF SUQUES 2,205,000 DAILY; AT THE SAME TIME, TO THIS MUST BE ADDED THE OTHER MILLIONS REPRESENTING THE CHARGES ON CARGO MOVED THROUGH THE VESSELS OF THE EUROPE, UNCLASSIFIED

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SOUTH PACIFIC AND STRAITS OF MAGELLAN CONFERENCE WHICH COULD EASILY GO UP TO FIVE MILLION SUQUES DAILY IN TOTAL, ALL BECAUSE OF THE CONGESTION OF THE PORT OF GUAYAQUIL.

WE HAVE TO AWAIT THE SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM BY THE MERCHANT MARINE DIRECTORATE AND THE GUAYAQUIL PORT AUTHORITY."  
BISHTON

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## Message Attributes

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